

THE ORIGINS OF

FEAR



THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON (1953)

Jack Arnold's classic creature feature made a big splash with audiences, who couldn't say no to a monstrous Gill Man and the lure of the first underwater 3-D movie.

Boldly opening with no less than the creation of the world and a highly suspect explanation regarding our lineage to the undersea realm, the cast head off on an Amazon river cruise in search of a missing link in the evolutionary chain – and find it. Or rather it finds them, abducting resident beauty Julie Adams.



It's Halloween this month and what better way to celebrate than with a selection of classic monster movies from the Universal vaults, only at JB Hi-Fi.



FRANKENSTEIN (1931)

Thankfully presented in its original (censorship free) version, James Whale's direction and Boris Karloff's portrayal of perhaps the most recognisable movie monsters of all time combines to deliver the definitive treatment of Mary Shelley's sympathetic tale.

Whale's film amplifies the torment of a man struggling with his feverish dreams of creating life and the agonising existence of his creation – a Monster made of human body parts. Brought to life by the obsessed Henry Frankenstein, the gentle giant is tormented and ill treated, not only by the scientist's offsider Fritz, but by his all too immediate role in society. Portrayed as the villain, Karloff brings humanity and empathy to The Monster. Misunderstood and all too often misjudged by the society that created him, he is hunted as the savage killer he accidentally becomes. Karloff's greatest role, and perhaps the most fantastic use of monster makeup of all time, ensure that James Whale's *Frankenstein* is the best of them all. "It's Alive!"

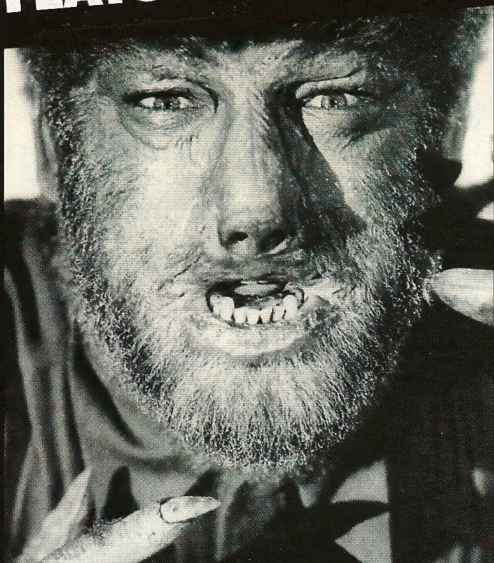
BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1935)

Director James Whale initially rejected the thought of a sequel to *Frankenstein*, but with the vast investment in place from Universal there was very little choice, thankfully.

Superior to the first *Frankenstein*, this classic sequel brings The Monster to life. Karloff stands tall once again, evincing pathos for Frankenstein's creation. The real villain is Dr Pretorius (Ernest Thesiger).

Strokes of genius from Whale and Karloff include a drinking, smoking and dancing Monster finding solace with a blind hermit, and liberal doses of camp black comedy.

Bride of Frankenstein not only gave us the first – and perhaps only – iconic female monster, it also gave us one of the greatest horror films of all time. Never the bridesmaid.



THE WOLF MAN (1941)

"Even a man who is pure in heart and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms, and the Autumn moon is bright."

George Waggner's *The Wolf Man* introduced the mythology of the werewolf in a film that was the signature role for star Lon Chaney Jr.

This classic tale has since been revisited in numerous incarnations – the latest, starring Benicio del Toro, is due in 2010. However few compare to the Chaney Jr. classic with its simplistic man-to-wolf transformation, dense atmosphere and literate script. Look out, too, for Bela 'Dracula' Lugosi among the cast.

THE MUMMY (1932)

It may not be as entertaining and as lavish as the 1999 Stephen Sommers remake, but the 1932 version with monster maestro Boris Karloff deserves a place alongside Dracula, Frankenstein and the Wolf Man in the pantheon of timeless horror icons.

Karloff, buried under Jack Pearce's eerie make-up, brings his indomitable presence to the role of unbandaged mummy Imhotep, who is searching for a lost princess whom he believes has been reincarnated.

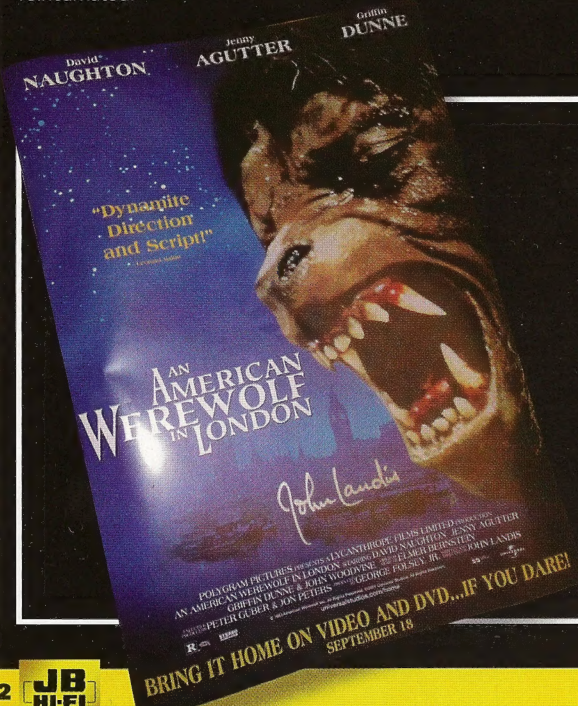


DRACULA (1931)

Originally a vehicle for Lon Chaney, who died prior to production, the role eventually went to the largely unknown Bela Lugosi, who was familiar with the part following a two year stint in the stage production.

This opportunity would not only change the Hungarian actor's life, but would forever associate him with Dracula (and later, Ed Wood).

Although lacking the chills of 1921's seminal *Nosferatu*, the 1931 version of *Dracula* introduced the voice and the look that would become synonymous with countless screen Counts in the decades that followed.



WIN

To celebrate the release of *An American Werewolf in London* on Blu-ray and Special Edition DVD, we are giving away 2 posters of the movie signed by director John Landis, thanks to Universal Pictures.

For your chance to win go to www.stack.net.au